

**Infant Toddler Program  
Medicaid Children's Developmental Disabilities Talking Points**

**TALKING POINTS:**

1. It appears your child may have a need for developmental disability services. Your child also has Medicaid coverage. Medicaid offers a variety of services designed to support your child's early intervention needs. For this reason, we ask that you work with your service coordinator to enroll in Medicaid children's developmental disabilities services.
2. Taking the step to enroll in Medicaid DD services early on will:
  - 1) **Prepare you for the future.**  
It is a very different process once your child turns three and ages out of ITP. Starting early with the Medicaid DD process will help you gain an understanding of Medicaid services so you know what to expect and can plan for your child's transition out of ITP.
  - 2) **Gives you access to additional services not offered by ITP.**  
Respite and habilitative supports are services you could receive from a respite or DDA provider that would not otherwise be available through ITP.
  - 3) **Ensure your child's services will not drop off when they turn three.**  
ITP provides services to eligible children birth to three years of age regardless of Medicaid eligibility. However, at age three ITP services are no longer available. Children's DD services are not provided until the child is determined eligible and has an authorized plan of service. The child would not have access to services during the enrollment process, which could take up to a few months.
  - 4) **Help ITP continue to receive Medicaid funding for services, so the program can continue to provide early intervention services to children in Idaho.**  
The ITP is identified as the payer of last resort based on Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and was designed to rely on other funding streams to support the program. Therefore, ITP relies greatly on Medicaid funding to ensure a sustainable program.
3. If you take these steps and your child is not found eligible for DD services, your child's ITP services will **not** be impacted in any way. The ITP must provide needed early intervention services regardless of your child's eligibility for Medicaid.
  - Still asking why it is important: No matter the determination from Medicaid, ITP continues to provide the same services to your child and family as identified on the IFSP. However once your child turns 3 this will no longer be the case. Applying for DD services now will help you know if your child qualifies for Medicaid DD services, what types of benefits are available, and provide for a smooth transition. This way you can know what to expect after ITP and can better plan for the future.
4. Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are available for children who meet Medicaid's DD criteria. Services that support early intervention may include:
  - Walk through the **DD Services Family Packet**
  - Or families can choose a family-directed services option that allows parents to choose, design, and direct services outside of the traditional menu of services. The children's DD program authorizes this option.
    - Walk through the **Family-Directed Services handout** in the Medicaid children's DD application.
    - If parent asks if there are additional costs or training requirements – Explain they must hire a Support Broker (using their child's budget), or may become their own Support Broker if they attend specific training. The child's budget must also be used to pay for a Fiscal Employer Agent to track the budget.
    - If parent is interested – Refer them to the FACS DD program case coordinator. They are the experts and can answer questions and set the family up with training. ITP is not the expert and should not attempt to answer questions or contact the case coordinator as the "middle man".

5. **Not interested in the additional services:** You do not have to access all of the services available, but know they are an option because later down the road you may decide the service is needed. This way you will be ready to start the service the next day if necessary. Also ITP provides family education to many families, so enrolling in DD services is a great help for covering the cost of services and maintaining highly qualified therapists for ITP.
6. To get started, we will assist you with completing the Medicaid children's DD application to see if your child qualifies for Home and Community Based Services.
7. The application process involves completing an assessment, called the Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R), and filling out a few forms to complete the application. The SIB-R is the assessment tool Medicaid requires to assist in determining Medicaid children's DD eligibility.
8. We will gather all of the information needed and get your consent to apply for the services, and then submit this information to the independent assessment provider to make the eligibility determination. Medicaid's independent assessment provider is the Idaho Center for Disability Evaluations (ICDE).
9. Your child will be assessed by the ICDE to determine the package of services available for your child and family. You will receive a notice of decision based on your application, and this notice will indicate the budget amount available for your child's service package if found eligible.
10. Once the ICDE determines your child's eligibility, your service coordinator and IFSP team will complete an addendum to your child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) to include the new Home and Community Based Services. The addendum may result in additional service options for your family, such as respite care, but will not impact the existing early intervention services your child is receiving. **(CHILDREN WITH EXISTING IFSP'S ONLY)**
11. During the process, there is no impact to existing services your child is receiving. ITP continues to provide services identified in your child's IFSP.

**Infant Toddler Program  
Talking Points for Transition to DD Program at Age 3**

**TALKING POINTS FOR CHILDREN TURNING 3 YEARS OLD WHO ARE INITIAL MEDICAID DD APPLICANTS:**

1. Since your child is about to turn 3 and has Medicaid coverage, it is important that you begin the application process for children's developmental disabilities services to see if your child qualifies for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services. Your child's ITP services will in no way be impacted throughout the children's DD application process, and your child will continue to receive ITP services until they turn 3 years of age.
2. Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are available for children who meet Medicaid's DD criteria. These services support early intervention and may include:
  - Walk through the **DD Services Family Packet**
  - Or families can choose a family-directed services option that allows parents to choose, design, and direct services outside of the traditional menu of services. The children's DD program authorizes this option.
    - If additional questions - Walk through the **Family-Directed Services handout** in the Medicaid children's DD application.
3. We are going to refer you to the Division of Family and Community Services, Children's DD Program to apply for Medicaid HCBS. A FACS DD case manager will contact you to walk you through the steps for applying.
4. Your child will be assessed by Medicaid's independent assessor, the Idaho Center for Disability Evaluations (ICDE), to determine the package of services available for your child and family. You will receive a notice of decision based on your application, and this notice will indicate the budget amount available for your child's service package if found eligible.
5. Once the ICDE determines your child's eligibility, you will work with a FACS DD case manager to identify goals for your child, and write a new plan for developmental disability services based on those goals.

**TALKING POINTS FOR CHILDREN TURNING 3 YEARS OLD CURRENTLY RECEIVING MEDICAID DD SERVICES:**

1. Your child is turning 3 this year, so we will be including a transition plan in the IFSP that talks about what services and supports may be needed once your child graduates from ITP.
2. Since your child is already enrolled in Medicaid DD services it is important that we talk about the steps we will take to get you set up with the Division of FACS, Children's DD Program.
3. The Children's DD Program provides case management for families enrolled in Medicaid DD benefits. One distinction is that while ITP provides services directly, the children's DD program does not provide direct services. When your child turns 3 the case manager will help you find Medicaid provider agencies outside of the Department.
4. Starting around 2 years 8 months when it is getting close to your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, a new case manager from the Children's DD program will get in contact with you to talk about the process and new options you may want to explore now that your child will be 3.
5. Part of preparing for your child turning 3 is to re-determine DD eligibility and write a new plan of service. The plan of service is similar to an IFSP, however it is very specific to your child's DD services and Medicaid benefits. I will work with the case manager to ensure they have everything they need to carry over to a new plan.
6. You may receive a family questionnaire from the Idaho Center for Disability Evaluations (ICDE) to re-determine your child's eligibility. The ICDE may need to complete a new SIB-R if there have been a lot of changes since the last SIB-R was completed.
7. A new waiver program that your child may qualify for is the Act Early waiver. The Act Early waiver is for children ages 3 to 7 who have severe behaviors or an Autism Spectrum diagnosis with severe impairments.
8. The other options are the same as they were with ITP. Your child may qualify for HCBS State Plan Services, or

they may qualify for the Children's DD waiver which offers the full array of DD benefits.

- Walk through the **DD Services Family Packet** or the **Children's DD Program Information Packet** if needed.

9. This may also be a time that you start exploring the family-directed services pathway if you haven't done so already. The Act Early waiver does not have this option, however the other benefit packages allow for this flexibility. Your new case manager will be able to discuss this option in more detail with you if you are interested.

- Walk through the **Family-Directed Services handout** in the Medicaid children's DD application if needed.

10. Once the ICDE determines your child's eligibility, you will receive a notice of decision based on your application, and this notice will indicate the budget amount available for your child's service package if found eligible.

11. Your new FACS DD case manager will work with you to identify your new goals and write a new plan of service for your child that will start when they turn 3.

### Infant Toddler Program Families Declining Part C Services

#### PROCESS FOR FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE NOT TO RECEIVE ITP SERVICES

1. All families applying for Medicaid DD services for a child under 2 years 8 months should be referred to the Infant Toddler Program.
2. The Infant Toddler Program is within the Department of Health and Welfare, and provides case management services on behalf of the Department for children birth to 3 years of age.
3. Even when a family declines Part C services, ITP service coordinators will continue to case manage the child's Medicaid services as representatives of the Department.
4. The ITP and children's DD services program have very similar philosophies, however there are a few differences that should be considered if the family chooses not to participate in the ITP. Some differences include:
  - The child will not have a primary coach or multidisciplinary team
  - Services do not have to be provided in a child's natural environment
  - The child and family will not have access to Infant Toddler Program Part C services
5. When a family is referred to the Infant Toddler Program, service coordinators follow the same process of informing the family about the program, program's philosophy, benefits, and the services available to them.
6. Parents should be made aware that enrolling in the Infant Toddler Program is voluntary.
7. If the family declines Part C services, the case manager should write the IFSP to include the Medicaid DD services they wish to receive based on the child's needs.
  - **NOTE:** Even though the family may request services outside of the ITP model, the service coordinator is still responsible for making sure the DD services remain within the child's budget, the child's health and safety needs are being met, and the services on the IFSP meet Medicaid requirements.
8. Once the IFSP is implemented, the service coordinator will monitor the plan following the same process as FACS DD case management. Refer to "Medicaid CM Monitoring Overview" for the process.